

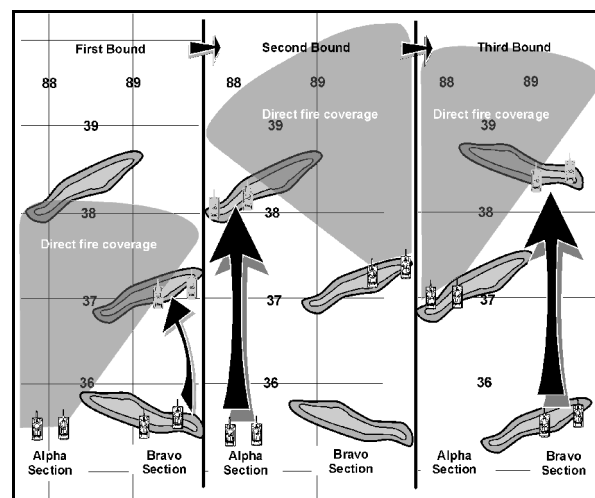
Traveling overwatch

This technique provides additional security when contact is possible but speed is still desirable. The lead element moves continuously. The trail element moves at various speeds and may halt periodically to overwatch the lead element.

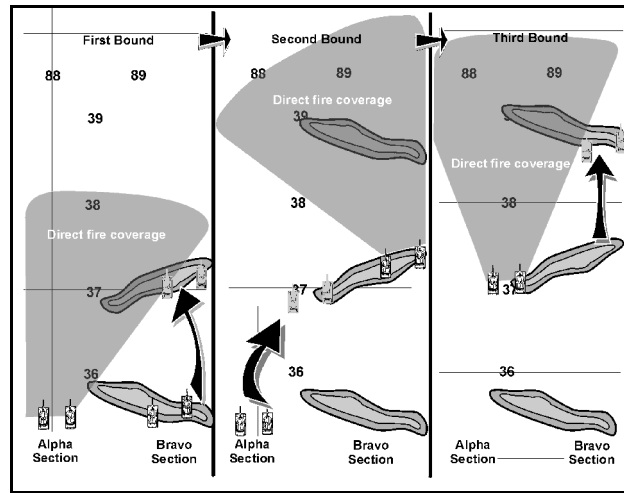
Bounding overwatch

Bounding overwatch is used when contact is expected. Only one section moves at a time. The platoon leader designates which bounding technique (alternate or successive) will be used. In the alternate technique, the bounding element moves past the overwatch element in each bound. In successive bounds, the bounding element moves abreast of the overwatch element each time. The two techniques are shown in the illustrations on the following pages.

NOTE: The platoon repeats the steps for alternate or successive bounds until it makes contact or reaches its objective.



Alternate bounding.



Successive bounding.

OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS – ACTIONS ON CONTACT

Contact occurs when the platoon observes enemy personnel or vehicles, observes or receives direct or indirect fire, or encounters situations (including reports of enemy contact) that require active or passive response to the enemy.

FOUR STEPS OF ACTIONS ON CONTACT

The four steps of actions on contact are the following:

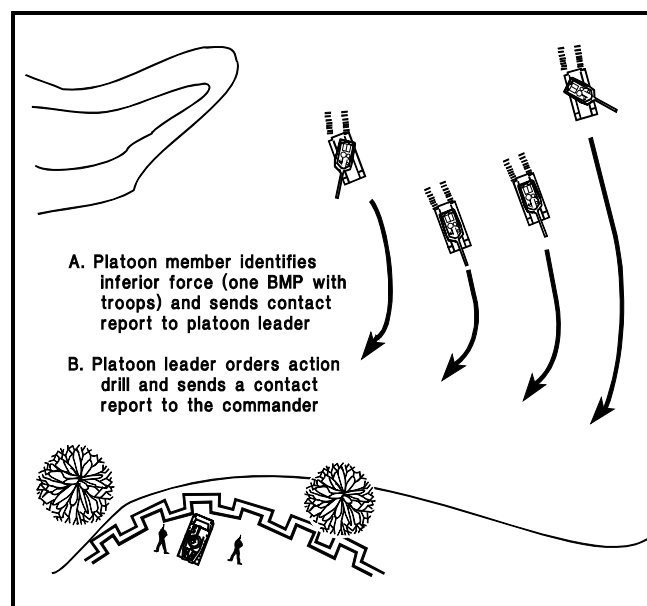
- Deploy and report.
- Evaluate/develop the situation.
- Choose a COA.
- Recommend/execute a COA.

EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS ON CONTACT

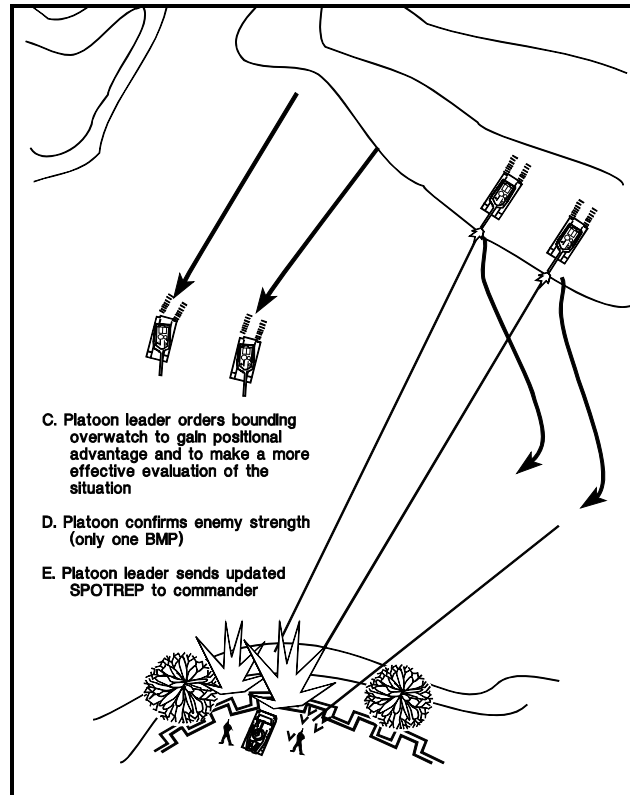
The following examples illustrate actions on contact for two potential situations. The illustrations are organized to show the four-step process for executing actions on contact.

Actions on contact with an anticipated inferior force

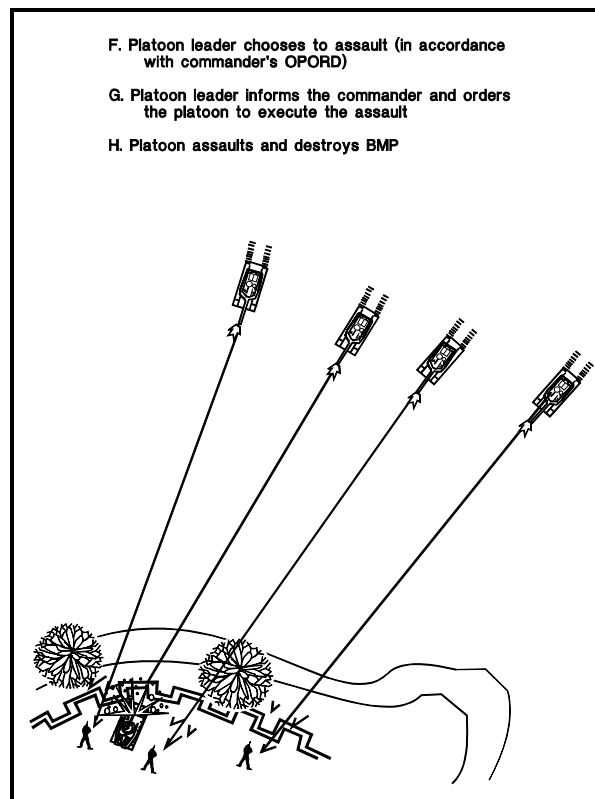
The following illustrations show actions on contact when the platoon encounters an inferior enemy element. In this case, the commander and platoon leader have anticipated contact with such a force and have planned for actions on contact by including possible COAs in their OPORDs and/or rehearsals.



Platoon makes initial contact,
deploys using an action drill, and reports.



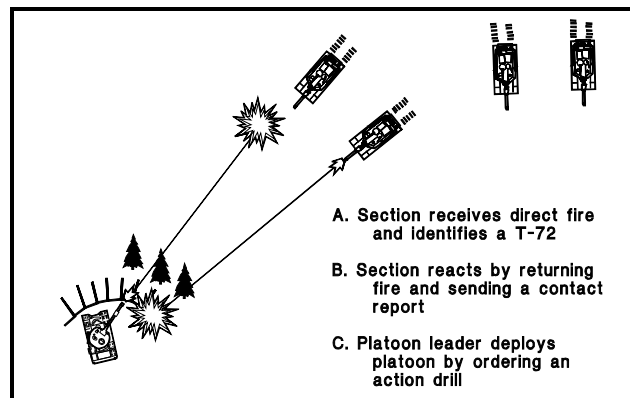
Platoon develops the situation.



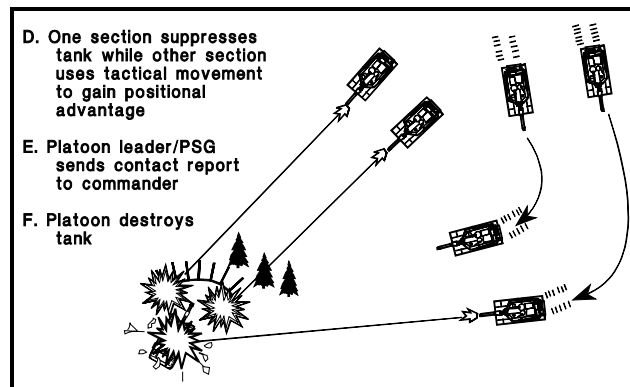
Platoon leader chooses a COA;
platoon executes the assault.

Actions on contact with an unanticipated superior force

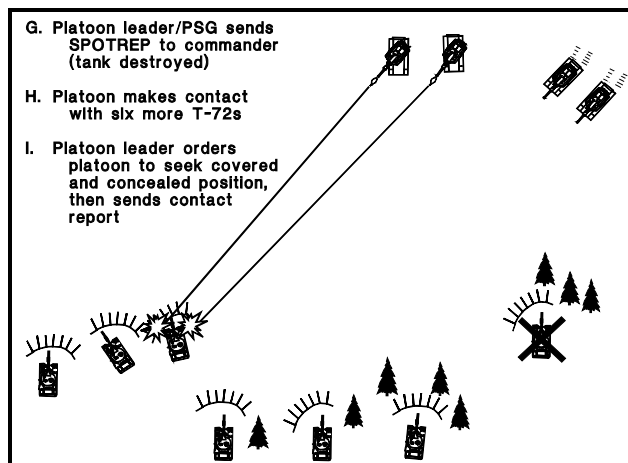
The following illustrations show actions on contact when the platoon unexpectedly encounters a superior enemy force.



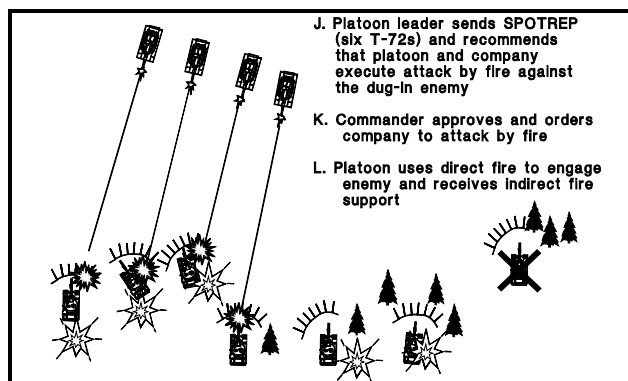
Platoon makes initial contact, deploys, and reports.



Platoon executes a battle drill; platoon leader evaluates the situation as the drill is executed.



Platoon develops the situation and identifies a superior enemy force.

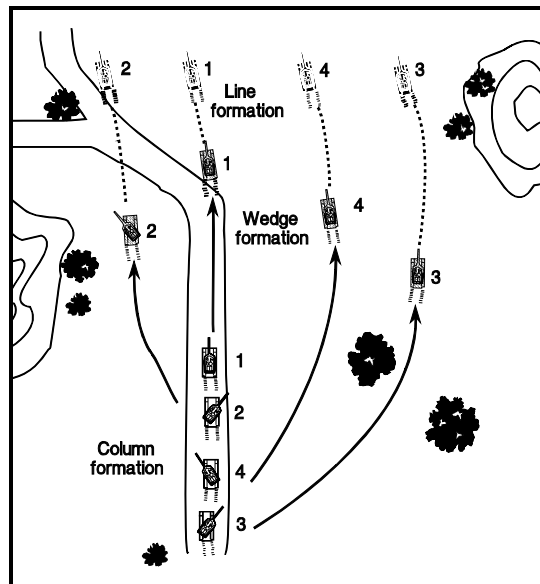


Platoon leader chooses and recommends an alternate COA; platoon executes the new COA.

BATTLE DRILLS

The platoon executes seven basic battle drills, which can be modified as necessary to fit a particular situation. Refer to FM 3-20.15 for detailed procedures. The battle drills (some shown in the following illustrations) are—

- Change of formation drill (battle drill 1).
- Contact drill (battle drill 2).
- Action drill (battle drill 3).
- React to indirect fire drill (battle drill 4).
- React to air attack drill (battle drill 5).
- React to a nuclear attack drill (battle drill 6).
- React to a chemical attack drill (battle drill 7).



Change of formation drill (battle drill 1).